

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ANTI-NAMRU SERIES CONCLUDES

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3617

SUMMARY. ETHIOPIAN HERALD SERIES ON NAMRU CONCLUDES
WITH SECOND ARTICLE ON AUGUST 18. ATTACK BROADENS
TO AIM AT WHOLE NAMRU SYSTEM OF RESEARCH FOR ITS ALLEGED
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS RESEARCH AND THE DANGERS SUCH ALLEGED
RESEARCH POSE TO THE POPULATIONS OF COUNTRIES WHERE NAMRU
FACILITIES ARE LOCATED. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, WE WOULD APPRE-
CIATE RECEIVING A STATEMENT BY CABLE ON NAMRU-5 AND LATER
ABOUT NAMRU WORLDWIDE FOR USE WITH ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE SECOND AND CONCLUDING ARTICLE BY "MUSTAFA ABUBEKER"
IN THE AUGUST 18 EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ETHIOPIAN
HERALD INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING QUOTES: "IT IS AN ESTABLISHED
FACT THAT DESPITE THE SOLEMN STATEMENT MADE BY FORMER
PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1969 . . . BIOLOGICAL WEAPON RESEARCH IS
STILL GOING ON." " . . . UNTIL VERY RECENTLY A TWIN RESEARCH
PROJECT (NAMRU-5) WAS OPERATIONAL IN ETHIOPIA. IT WAS
CLOSED DOWN AT THE REQUEST OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
. . . IT CAN BE SAFELY ASSUMED THAT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE
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WORLD THERE ARE MORE U.S. SET-UPS ENGAGED IN BIOLOGICAL
WARFARE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNDER VERY INNOCENT
SOUNDING COVERS." " . . . THE U.S. MILITARY HAVE STARTED
DIVIDING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS INTO 'DEFENSIVE' AND 'OFFENSIVE'
. . . SUCH A DIVISION IS SYMBOLICAL." "AGAINST WHOM THEN CAN
BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENTS BE USED? APPARENTLY AGAINST THE
ARMED FORCES OF A GREAT POWER WITH WHICH THE USA MAY CLASH IF

AND WHEN THE HOSTILITIES SPREAD, FOR INSTANCE, ON TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AN EPIDEMIC DISEASE BREAKING OUT AMONG THE TROOPS OF THAT POWER WOULD THEN BE CONTRACTED BY THE PEACEFUL POPULATION OF THE COUNTRY CLOSE TO THE HOSTILITIES OR WHERE THE ACTUAL HOSTILITIES WOULD TAKE PLACE. HYPOTHETICALLY ONE CANNOT RULE OUT THE USE BY THE USA OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AGAINST ANY COUNTRY OF THE REGION IF THE US FINDS ITSELF AT WAR WITH THAT NATION . . . THE US MAY WELL USE THE WEAPONS TO RUIN THE ECONOMY OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IN ORDER TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ITS POLICY. THUS IN 1971 THE USA SUCCEEDED IN TRANSPORTING TO CUBA BACILLI OF SWINE PLAGUE, AND AS A RESULT OF THAT OPERATION AN EPIZOOTIC BROKE OUT KILLING CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PIGS." "THE DANGER OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ESTABLISHMENTS SIMILAR TO NAMRU-3 (IDENTIFIED ELSEWHERE AS IN CAIRO) FOR THE POPULATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES LIES NOT ONLY IN THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE WEAPONS WHICH ARE DEVELOPED THERE. THE RESEARCH ITSELF AND THE STORING OF BACTERIA AND VIRUSES ARE A THREAT THE MAGNITUDE OF WHICH IT IS DIFFICULT TO OVERESTIMATE." "THE VIRUS CAN BE CARRIED OUT OF THE LABS EITHER ON THE BODY OF AN EMPLOYEE . . . OR AS A RESULT OF SOMEBODY CATCHING THE INFECTION . . . IN 1951 A DISEASE CONTRACTED . . . AT FORT DETRICK KILLED A MICROBIOLOGIST WILLIAM BOYLES, IN 1958 AND IN 1961 - EUGENE WILLARD AND ALBERT NICKEL." " . . . DISEASES CAN BE RELEASED FROM THE STORAGE FACILITIES AS A RESULT OF ARSON OR DURING AN ATTACK ON THE LABS IN THE PROCESS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS OR TERRORIST ATTACKS. IT CAN'T BE RULED OUT EITHER THAT SOME NAMRU-3 EMPLOYEE MAY BECOME PSYCHOLOGICALLY UNSTABLE AND WILL USE THE BACTERIA FROM THE LABORATORIES TO SET OFF AN EPIDEMIC . . . FINALLY, ANY CONTAINER . . . CAN SIMPLY BE STOLEN."

2. FULL TEXTS OF AUGUST 17 AND 18 ARTICLES HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT IN SY CHANNELS.

3. USING THE MEASURE OF WHO BENEFITS FROM SUCH ARTICLES, WE CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THEM COMMUNIST DISINFORMATION PLANTED IN THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD. IF ISSUE OF ATTACKS ON NAMRU IS NOT LIMITED TO THESE TWO ARTICLES, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS TEL, REFTEL AND STATEMENT REQUESTED REFFTEL ON NATURE AND SCOPE OF NAMRU ACTIVITIES TO INTERESTED POSTS.

4. FORMER NAMRU-5 STAFF SHOULD NOT TAKE THE ATTACK PERSONALLY. THIS SORT OF VENOM IS DAILY FARE IN THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD. THE AGUSUT 18 EDITION ALSO HAD AN ARTICLE IMPLICATING THE CIA AND FBI IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING (BASED ON ADN), A REPORT OF AN EAST GERMAN CONDEMNATION OF THE "COMPREHENSIVE COLLABORATION OF THE NATO POWERS WITH

THE SOUTH AFRICAN RACIST REGIME", AND A REPORT THAT THE CIA
AND ISRAELI SHIN BET JOINTLY DEVASTATED A PLO BUILDING IN
BEIRUT LAST WEEKEND AND THEN TRIED TO PIN THE BLAME ON
DISSIDENT PALESTINIANS.
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